

Hungerford Town Council Covid Community Champions Event

Awards were presented to the following:



Geordie & Kala Taylor – Hungerford’s self -isolation Group.

Right at the start of the pandemic Geordie came into HTC’s office and said, “I’ve got the time, good organisational skills, people know me, I want to help”! The self-isolation group was born. Geordie hates bureaucracy, rules and regulations which HTC has to adhere to. Geordie however was determined to overcome these hurdles and, working in partnership, we crossed them. Over 200 volunteers came

forward on Geordie’s call for help so no-one in our community was left without food, medication, advice, a telephone call or doorstep conversation for those who were alone or vulnerable. Geordie’s team went on to help the vaccine roll-out, driving residents to the vaccination centre at Newbury Racecourse. Geordie has been recognised by MP Laura Farris, but the community would like to recognise Geordie’s and Kala’s outstanding efforts here on home soil. He even managed to persuade GWR to change its timetable so that more trains could stop at Newbury Racecourse station when the vaccination centre was open there. “Thank you” simply doesn’t seem enough!

Self-Isolation Co-ordinators

Realising the enormity of the task in hand, a team of volunteer leaders was appointed. They were responsible for organising their own individual areas and for co-ordinating the volunteers within their vicinity. It was important and reassuring to residents to have volunteers who were known and trusted neighbours. The town is incredibly grateful to you and to all the volunteers from the team. Huge thanks go to: Chris Hook, Hilary Stockwell, Andy Bell, Ian Sweeney, Dee Anderson, Nicola Wood, Megan Heath, Angus Fleming, Martyn Bright, Alison Martin, Ed Pellow and Dennis Benneyworth



James Johnson



James raised funds for the self-isolation team by creating a CD & Downloadable version of a music track entitled *World Anthem*. The profits made from sales went directly to support many additional local groups and charities as well as the self-isolation team.

Councillor John Downe

John also volunteered with the self-isolation group and collected and delivered a lot of medical prescriptions. John drives regularly for CHAIN and although the CHAIN office was closed, he collected donations from foodbank collection points in Hungerford and drove them to the main centre in Newbury where he helped to distribute the parcels in and around the local area. John also did many trips to the vaccination centre to help those who were without transport.

Ted Angel & George Ham

Ted and George were both nominated for driving the Handybus to collect food from the collection points in Hungerford, delivering this to the Newbury distribution centre and then redelivering to local families who were so grateful for the support each week. Both Ted and George are well known for volunteering and doing so during the pandemic was no exception.



Marion Stroud



Marion is well known to all of us crafters in the town as a complete machine when it comes to knitting, sewing and crocheting. It was no surprise that, when hearing the cry for help, Marion went full speed ahead, making and delivering 50 sets of scrubs to the local hospital. She didn't stop there and also went on to make over 1,500 facemasks and crochet bands to keep the elastic from your ears. Marion sold the masks and gave all the proceeds to the Hungerford Hub.

Shaun Wood & Lucy Crame

Shaun and Lucy are both volunteers as community first responders. At times during the pandemic, when ambulances could be delayed due to the demand and when urgent treatment was desperately needed, they attended calls even when not on duty and often in their own vehicles, helping to assist residents and offer reassurance whilst awaiting the ambulance.

Nour Fayad

Nour enabled St Lawrence's church services to go online when people were not allowed in the church building. She introduced St Lawrence's to technology so that the preachers, readers and intercessors all Zoomed together. Nour then turned this into a Youtube and Facebook live stream. When eventually allowed back into the church, she bought cameras tripods and sound equipment to record the service and stayed on an extra two hours to upload the recordings. Nour hasn't missed a single service since March 2020. The Annual Remembrance Sunday service in November 2020 was also recorded and streamed in this way and has been watched by over 370 people.



Nick Lumley

Nick has been nominated for his efforts in ensuring Hungerford's weekly market thrived throughout the pandemic, giving the town access to essential fresh produce. The outdoor market for many residents was the only place they felt comfortable shopping. Nick was out

there in all weathers with his measuring stick and tape. As the former constable, Nick ensured market goers adhered to Covid guidelines and he lifted the community's spirit every week.

Chrissy Marsh and Stuart March



Chrissy and Stuart have also been nominated for their volunteer efforts on Hungerford's weekly market. Every Wednesday they were out in all weathers ensuring people signed into the app or recorded the names and phone numbers of market goers. They made sure residents remained socially distanced and informed throughout. These two never stop smiling and always brightened everyone's day.

Helen & Colin Daunton, Tesco

Helen and Colin were nominated for their personal contributions to the community. As managers, they were in constant communication with the Mayor and quickly offered to help the self-isolation volunteers (who were shopping for many households) have priority entrance to the store. They also helped to feed local families who were struggling to make ends meet. Tesco as a store has received so much praise for its outstanding efforts. The staff were sometimes under severe pressure when panic buying took hold in the early stages. We are lucky to have a store which really support their local community – as, indeed, it has done again today by providing the food for this event.



Boots the Chemist

The store has been nominated for the support it gave to the community and for the changes implemented to assist the volunteers making collections for shielding and vulnerable residents. Staff were coming out of the store and doing all that they could to ensure the waiting times were as short as possible.

Lizzie Mulholland

Lizzie was nominated for helping an elderly neighbour with shopping and taking the time to check on him and chat with him on the doorstep each week. When she had to return from her studies in Paris when France imposed its curfew, she decided to use some of her free time to help him. Often, he'd only need a couple of items, but he was always thrilled to see her each week.

Derek & Di Loft



Derek and Di were nominated for organising Remembrance Sunday. HTC desperately wanted to mark this important date in our calendar and Derek and Di rallied to help us do just that. We had a smaller service, but it felt very personal and even more moving. Di also co-ordinated a very successful poppy appeal despite Covid restrictions.

Penny Post

Penny and Brian were instrumental in getting communications out into the public domain through Penny Post. They kept residents informed on their digital platforms, informing and signposting residents to find help and support, providing information about takeaway food, sharing HTC's news about Covid and reporting the ever-changing legislation. They also kept community spirits high. Penny and Stuart March also co-ordinated the Christmas community video. It was an enormous amount of work but so appreciated by the whole community. When shops and businesses opened, Penny Post was there once again with us to welcome them back.



The Hungerford and Marlborough Adviser



The Adviser was also nominated for putting all the town's news in print. It was so important for communicating the volunteer self-isolation information to every household in Hungerford. They are such a friendly team who are always happy to support the community and publish details and events.

Disco Dan

Dan is a real local legend and now has a huge following on social media which stretches as far as Sweden. Dan has health challenges, but he never lets the sometimes excruciating pain from arthritis stop him, nearly breaking himself on occasion to help raise a community's spirits. Dan held nightly live discos from his own living room throughout the lockdowns. He helped combat the loneliness and isolation felt by so many within our community, encouraging us all to chat and join in. He raised a huge sum of money by encouraging his followers to donate, which he then reinvested by spending locally, purchasing gifts and vouchers which he delivered to nominated Covid heroes within our community.



Team HTC



The HTC team – Claire Barnes, Sarah Hennessey, Sarah Chatters and Roger Ballard – was nominated by the Mayor because they've worked tirelessly to support the community by keeping the public informed of the ever-changing rules and regulations throughout the pandemic, working with local businesses and organisations to ensure they had access and information about available funding and signposting them to the WBC's Hub. They were thrown

into the deep end and had to quickly adapt and change operational procedures for council run facilities. They helped Geordie to jump through some of the safeguarding hoops that were at times immensely frustrating. Roger our maintenance employee went the extra mile

to ensure the facilities were regularly checked, signs were put up and the public kept informed.

HTC would like to say a huge thank you to the following local organisations and individuals who gave so generously to ensure the event was such a success:

- Christian Alba for the meat;
- Hungerford Tesco for the other food;
- John O'Gaunt Public House for the beer;
- The Naked Grape for the wine;
- Helen's Balloons for the wonderful balloon arch;
- John O'Gaunt and Hungerford Primary Schools for the gazebos;
- Derek Loft for the PA system;
- Hungerford Town Band (who pretty much always say yes to our community events) for the music;
- Our resident chef Barney alongside our Town Clerk Claire for the wonderfully cooked food;
- HTC's Deputy Town Clerk Sarah Hennessey for working tirelessly to ensure this event was co-ordinated and organised so well.